

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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O R 231006Z MAR 77

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2377

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 6957

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

USCINCEUR

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USDOCOSOUTH

USLOSAACLANT

USNMR SHAPE

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR NATO

SUBJ: PERMREPS LUNCHEON, MARCH 22, 1977

SUMMARY: AT THEIR REGULAR LUNCHEON ON MARCH 22, NATO PERMREPS
DISCUSSED THE FOLLOWING:

1. SECRETARY VANCE'S VISIT
2. NATO SUMMIT
3. NATO AEW
4. MBFR
5. INTERNATIONAL STAFF BRIEFINGS TO JOURNALISTS ON THE
MILITARY BALANCE
6. ZAIRE
7. F-16

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8. PRESIDENT'S UN SPEECH

END SUMMARY.

1. SECRETARY VANCE'S VISIT. PERMREPS INDICATED THAT
THERE WOULD BE NO SPECIAL ATTENDANCE FROM CAPITALS WHEN
THE SECRETARY BRIEFS THE COUNCIL ON MARCH 26. HARDY
(CANADA) ASKED IF THE SECRETARY WOULD CONFINE HIMSELF
TO SALT OR SPEAK ON A WIDER RANGE OF ISSUES, E.G.,
MBFR AND US-SOVIET RELATIONS. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT
HE THOUGHT THE SECRETARY WOULD ADDRESS MORE THAN SALT

AND RESPOND TO WHATEVER QUESTIONS WERE ASKED. THE AMBASSADOR ADDED THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF THE ALLIES COULD INFORM US IN ADVANCE OF ANY SPECIFIC QUESTIONS THEY PLANNED TO RAISE, BUT REMINDED THE PERMREPS THAT US DECISIONS ON SOME SALT-RELATED ISSUES DOUBTLESS WOULD NECESSARILY HINGE ON FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SOVIETS AND THUS THAT, ON SOME ASPECTS, THE PERMREPS SHOULD NOT NECESSARILY EXPECT THE SECRETARY TO GO BEYOND WHAT GELB TOLD THE COUNCIL DURING HIS SALT BRIEFING ON MARCH 21. THE AMBASSADOR MENTIONED THAT THE PERMREPS WOULD HAVE ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO ASK QUESTIONS RELATED TO THE SECRETARY'S TRIP WHEN MESSRS. HARTMAN AND GELB MEET WITH THE COUNCIL ON APRIL 4.

2. NATO SUMMIT. KILICK (UK) SAID THAT PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN WELCOMED THE NEWS THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD ATTEND THE FIRST DAY OF THE SPRING NAC MINISTERIAL ON MAY 10. THE PERMREPS AGREED THAT THE MAY 11 SESSION WOULD CONTINUE AS PLANNED AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL. HARTOGH (NETHERLANDS) SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT TO MEET FOR TWO DAYS IN VIEW OF THE BELGRADE CSCE CONFERENCE, AND SUGGESTED THAT A DECLARATION BE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE FIRST DAY, AND A COMMUNIQUE AT THE END OF THE SECOND DAY. TINE (FRANCE) SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO CONSULT HIS GOVERNMENT ON HARTOGH'S SUGGESTION, AND LUNS SUGGESTED THAT THE PERMREPS HOLD A PRIVATE MEETING TO DISCUSS WHAT DOCUMENTS TO ISSUE AT THE MAY 10-100 MEETING.

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3. NATO AEW. LUNS INFORMED PERMREPS THAT THE MEETING OF DEFENSE MINISTERS WOULD BEGIN AT 1030 ON FRIDAY, MARCH 25, AND THAT A NO-HOST BUFFET WOULD BE PROVIDED FOR LUNCH. THE DUTCH DEFENSE MINISTER WILL ATTEND THE MEETING; THE FRENCH, DANISH AND PORTUGUESE DEFENSE MINISTERS WILL NOT. LAGACOS (GREECE) HOPED TO KNOW WITHIN 24 HOURS IF HIS DEFENSE MINISTER WOULD ATTEND. CATALANO (ITALY) EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN AT LUNS' PLANS TO CIRCULATE MARCH 22 ASYG LABERGE'S DRAFT PAPER ON AN AEW COST-SHARING FORMULA, BECAUSE ITALY HAD RESERVED ITS POSITION ON PARTICIPATION IN AEW. CATALANO ALSO QUESTIONED REPORTS THAT THE FORTHCOMING PAPER PUT FRENCH PARTICIPATION "IN A SPECIAL FRAMEWORK", SINCE ITALY FELT IT SHOULD BE IN A "SPECIAL FRAMEWORK" TOO.

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4. MBFR. LUNS SAID THAT HE HAD SCHEDULED THE NEXT REPORT OF THE VIENNA MBFR AD HOC GROUP TO THE COUNCIL FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 1. CATALANO SAID HE WAS WORRIED BY REPORTS FROM VIENNA THAT THE VIENNA AD HOC GROUP WAS CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF TABLING DISAGGREGATED DATA SHOWING NATIONAL FIGURES WHEN THE COUNCIL HAD NOT YET AUTHORIZED SUCH ACTION. LUNS SAID HE WOULD MAKE IT CLEAR TO THE VIENNA GROUP THAT THEY DID NOT YET HAVE THE COUNCIL'S MANDATE FOR SUCH A MOVE. KILLICK (UK) AGREED THAT THERE WAS NO NEED NOW TO RUSH AHEAD IN VIENNA ON TABLING DISAGGREGATED DATA, SINCE THE SITUATION MIGHT BECOME CLEARER AFTER SECRETARY VANCE'S VISIT TO MOSCOW.

5. INTERNATIONAL STAFF BRIEFINGS TO JOURNALISTS ON
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THE MILITARY BALANCE. LUNS INFORMED PERMREPS THAT THE NATO PRESS SERVICE WOULD HOLD A DRY RUN OF AN UNCLASSIFIED IMS-PREPARED BRIEFING ON MILITARY BALANCE ON MARCH 22 AND THEN BRIEF JOURNALISTS ON MARCH 23. TINE (FRANCE) AND HARTOOGH (NETHERLANDS) SAID THAT THE IMS SHOULD NOT PROCEED UNTIL DELEGATIONS HAD REVIEWED THE BRIEFING, SINCE SUCH A BRIEFING ON THE MILITARY BALANCE COULD RAISE SENSITIVE POLITICAL QUESTIONS. HARTOOGH EMPHASIZED THAT SUCH BRIEFINGS MUST BE CAREFULLY TAILORED TO THE PUBLIC THEY WERE DESIGNED TO REACH, AND TINE INSISTED THAT THE NATO PRESS SERVICE MUST COORDINATE SUCH BRIEFINGS CLOSELY WITH THE IMS AND ALLIED DELEGATIONS. LUNS SAID HE NOTED THE ALLIES' CONCERNs AND WOULD DEFER THE BRIEFING SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 23 UNTIL NEXT WEEK.

6. ZAIRE. THE AMBASSADOR BRIEFED THE PERMREPS ON THE SITUATION IN ZAIRE AS DRAWN FROM STATE 063028 AND STATE 062954, AND THEN CIRCULATED THE TEXT OF ABBREVIATED BRIEFING NOTES AS THE ALLIES REQUESTED. SCHUURMANS

(BELGIUM) SAID THAT AS OF MARCH 8 OR 9 ABOUT 1000 OF THE MARC (MOUVEMENT D'ACTION POUR LA RESSURRECTION DU CONGO) HAD ENTERED KATANGA AND RETURNED TO THEIR NATIVE VILLAGES WHERE THEY WERE RECEIVED CORDIALLY. BETWEEN FOUR AND FIVE THOUSAND OTHER TROOPS STOOD READY TO INVADE. WHILE BELGIUM HAD SUPPLIED MOBUTU WITH SMALL ARMS, IT WAS URGING HIM TO SEEK A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT WITH THE INVADERS AND NOT FIGHT IT OUT, SINCE BELGIUM WAS SKEPTICAL OF MOBUTU'S ABILITY TO HANDLE THE SITUATION MILITARILY.

7. F-16. AMBASSADOR INFORMED LUNS AND THE PERMREPS OF BELGIUM, DENMARK, NETHERLANDS, AND NORWAY THAT (PER USNMR SHAPE 171528Z MAR 77) GENERAL HAIG DID NOT INTEND TO CONTACT THE FOUR ALLIED GOVERNMENTS TO DISCUSS DISSATISFACTION WITH F-16 PAYMENTS AS ERRONEOUSLY STATED BY LUNS AT A PREVIOUS LUNCH.

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8. PRESIDENT'S UN SPEECH. THE AMBASSADOR DREW ON STATE 062233 AND COMMENDED THE PRESIDENT'S MARCH 17 US ADDRESS TO THE PERMREPS' ATTENTION. (WE CIRCULATED FULL TEXT TO PERMREPS ON MARCH 18). STRAUSZ-HUPE

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